

Goals and Strategies

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Three common goals have been identified and refined through the Desert Foothills public outreach process outlined on pages 2-4 of this plan. The essence of these goals is to balance the anticipated physical development in the area and the rural lifestyle of the residents with the sensitive lush upper Sonoran desert.

Presently, approximately one-third of the study area is built-out. There continues to be an escalating number of real estate transactions occurring through out the area. This growth is based in individuals who desire to live in a relatively remote area within the upper Sonoran desert. However, as more privately owned parcels are developed and families move into the area, there will be many challenges to maintain the existing character without infringing on one's private property rights. The vision, goals and strategies set forth in this plan detail a logical direction to preserve the character of this unique region of the city.

- **Preserve the natural, visual qualities of the lush upper Sonoran Desert by using desert-sensitive building techniques that retain and blend with the natural desert character of the area.**
- **Promote connected areas of desert open space and trails through visual and functional linkages within and between local neighborhoods and a regional open space network.**
- **Identify and celebrate the Rural Desert character experienced in the Desert Foothills study area that will result in or maintain a unique desert community distinguished from other parts of Scottsdale and the metropolitan area.**

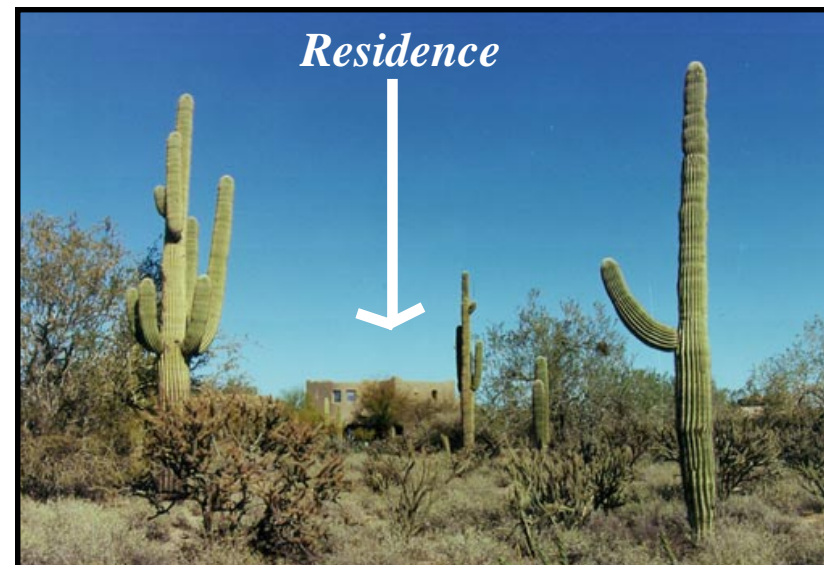
The following strategies have been identified to help achieve each of the plan's three goals, and thus, promote the Rural Desert character of the Desert Foothills area. The mechanisms to implement these goals and strategies are outlined in the implementation plan.

Goal 1: Preserve the natural, visual qualities of the lush upper Sonoran Desert by using desert-sensitive building techniques that retain and blend with the natural desert character of the area.

Strategies:

1. Blend all types of buildings and structures into the natural desert setting by using principles of minimal visual impact set forth by the Great Sonoran.
 - Development should blend with the land and reinforce its natural form. Discourage development which forces the land into a shape that places the development in a dominant, overpowering position.
 - Encourage the use of colors and non-reflective building materials that blend into the background hues and textures of the natural desert setting.
 - Consider all sides of buildings as part of the whole visual setting of the neighborhood and natural environment.
 - Natural desert landscaping should be retained and used to the greatest extent possible.

- Promote “dark skies” through minimizing outdoor lighting so it is virtually invisible from adjacent properties.
- Discourage buildings and structures which exceed one story or are visibly taller than the maximum mature canopy of the native trees.



Using the principles of minimal visual impact - desert tone colors, minimal height of buildings and maintaining natural desert landscaping help to better integrate the built form and maintain the dominance of the Sonoran desert setting.

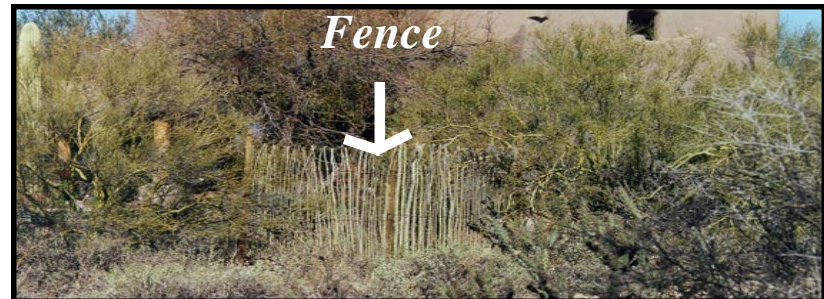
Goal 1, Strategy 2

2. Promote the use of site planning techniques which minimize the visual impact of development and promote a Rural Desert character.
 - To maintain the dominance of the desert vegetation, encourage the use of native landscaping. Discourage turf in areas visible from surrounding properties or streets. Turf in limited quantities may be appropriate in schools and associated recreation facilities.
 - Encourage alternatives to solid walls such as vegetation screens, earth berming that fits the nature of the local terrain, split rail fencing and the like.
 - To maintain a sense of wide open space, discourage the use of perimeter walls.
 - Where walls are used (i.e. yard enclosures) they should undulate with the natural terrain, use desert tone colors to blend into adjacent natural desert and should provide breaks or gaps for indigenous wildlife migration routes and maintain open vista corridors.
 - Promote building envelopes and construction envelopes to minimize disturbance of the natural site, to create a sense of openness, and to provide meaningful open space.
 - Connect natural areas on adjacent parcels to create more viable desert open space.
 - Designate grading/construction envelopes during the development of a site to protect the surrounding natural desert areas from construction encroachment.
 - Promote building designs that work with the natural environmental terrain. ESLO design guidelines are appropriate benchmarks.

- Discourage the placement of accessory buildings in visually prominent areas (i.e. adjacent to major streets).



The use of building and construction envelopes preserve the integrity of natural area open spaces which maintains the sense of openness experienced in the area.



Perimeter walls are discouraged throughout the study area. To create privacy and maintain sense of security vegetation screens or walls that undulate with terrain and use desert sensitive colors and building materials are preferred.

Goal 1, Strategy 3

3. Sensitively integrate infrastructure into the natural desert setting and rural lifestyle.

Local Residential and Collector Streets:

- Preserve the Rural Desert character of local streets by minimizing the street widths, following the natural topography and minimize bridging of washes.
- Preserve the Rural Desert character while fulfilling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) PM10 mandate, by exploring and using alternative(s) to asphalt that meet EPA requirements.
- Maintain the "dark skies" in the rural desert neighborhoods by discouraging street lights on local and collector streets.
Street lights may placed at signalized intersections to meet national safety standards.
- Maintain quiet, slower vehicular speeds by discouraging long through routes, minimizing the widths of streets and minimizing connections to major multi-lane roads.

Preserve the character of the local streets if and when they are improved by minimizing street widths, following natural topography, minimizing bridging of washes and exploring alternatives to asphalt that are equestrian friendly and blend into natural desert.

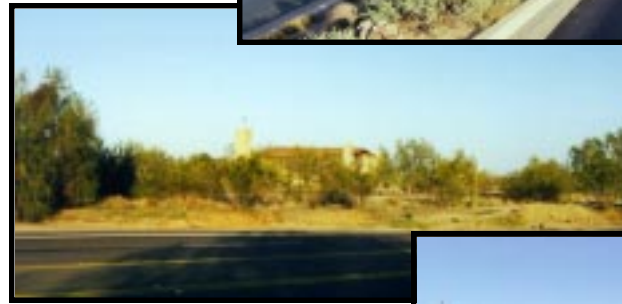


Goal 1, Strategy 3 continued

Scenic Corridors:

- Preserve the natural desert character of the Scenic Corridors by encouraging wider scenic setbacks, maintaining a vertical undulation in the roadway, limiting the number of driveways bisecting the scenic corridors, limiting the number of signalized intersections, using native vegetation within the medians and minimizing continuous and taller walls.
- Minimize visually obstructive infrastructure by using a consistent color palette and special designs that blend into the natural desert environment and creates an identity compatible with the rural desert neighborhoods.
- Encourage and promote the revegetation of disturbed areas along scenic corridors. Revegetation should consist of similar native plant species and densities in surrounding natural desert.
- Encourage efforts to preserve the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive, Scottsdale's first Scenic Corridor, which links neighborhoods in and around the Desert Foothills study area.

When road profile is improved with median, native plant material should be used within median. Natural undulation should be maintained where it does not pose a safety hazard.



Encourage wider scenic setbacks and revegetation of disturbed areas.



Goal 1, Strategy 3 continued

Drainage Infrastructure

- Blend all drainage structures such as box culverts into the natural desert by using colors, textures and materials which reflect the adjacent natural conditions.
- Encourage the use of undulating, revegetated banks of detention/retention basins. Revegetation of detention/retention basins should use native plant species appropriate to riparian areas.

Water/Wastewater

- Blend or camouflage reservoir sites and pump stations into the surrounding environment by screening infrastructure using desert-sensitive colors and textures and planting appropriate densities and mixtures of native vegetation.
- Avoid, where possible, the disturbance of sensitive desert environments with the placement of water and wastewater infrastructure. Place infrastructure within disturbed areas such as existing street alignments. If desert is disturbed through construction of infrastructure, all disturbed areas should be revegetated with plant material consistent with natural preconstruction conditions.

Utilities

- Encourage underground placement of electric utility lines, where feasible, to preserve the visual qualities of the area.
- Encourage utility providers to blend all above-ground cabinets and structures with the surrounding natural environment. If equipment is located along

major streets with a defined color palette, keep consistent colors and textures and screen with native vegetation.

- Encourage the co-location of cellular pads on existing signal and light poles. The cellular equipment should be consistent with the existing color and diameter of the existing poles.



Drainage basins should use undulating banks with native riparian vegetation. Washes should be maintained in their natural state. Disturbed washes should be revegetated to blend back into natural desert.

Goal 2: Promote connected areas of desert open space and trails through visual and functional linkages within and between local neighborhoods and a regional open space network.

Strategies:

1. Promote a continuous trail system which connects the local neighborhoods to each other and a regional trail system leading into the preserves.
 - To create a better and safer desert experience encourage wider trail and street separation.
 - To preserve the natural vegetation meander the trail around existing plants, cacti and trees.
 - Transition the width of trails from higher use areas such as regional linkages to lower use areas such as neighborhood loops.
 - Encourage a trail system which connects to large continuous open spaces. This trail system should not bisect environmentally sensitive habitats.
 - Provide a multitude of access points from local neighborhoods, scenic and vista corridors to desert and mountain preserves.
 - Encourage public and neighborhood access along the Scenic Corridors by incorporating trails, locations for interpretive demonstrations and linkages to open spaces internal to neighborhoods.



Trails should transition in width from areas of more intense use along scenic corridors and other continuous areas of open space to local neighborhoods.

Goal 2, Strategy 2

2. Encourage the development of an open space system which links open space throughout the Desert Foothills area to the scenic and vista corridors and preserves.
 - Encourage wider scenic setbacks along major streets to minimize impact of adjacent development and maintain existing viewsheds.
 - Sustain natural flora and fauna resources and systems through the provision of connected open spaces.
 - Encourage the integration of open spaces to ensure open space connections and maintain a feeling of openness throughout the area.
 - Preserve and protect unique open spaces, and archaeological and historical sites.
- Encourage large continuous areas of open space (wash corridors, NAOS, COS) rather than small fragmented pieces of natural area.
- Seek an open space connection between Phoenix, the Tonto National Forest and the McDowell Mountains to provide for wildlife migration and large desert vistas.



Protect natural flora and fauna while providing opportunities for visual and functional linkages throughout and around the Desert Foothills area.

Goal 2, Strategy 3

3. Promote recreation opportunities to enhance and preserve a Rural Desert character through the following strategies:

- Seek opportunities to accommodate low-impact equestrian oriented parks, trailheads and other recreational amenities that respond to the needs and demands of the citizens.
- Park design should emphasize the unique Sonoran Desert environment through minimal disturbance to the site, desert sensitive architecture and construction detailing.
- Specialty parks should be encouraged along scenic corridors to allow residents and tourists

alike to view and experience the desert and mountain vistas.

- Limit turf to active recreation areas in association with schools and specific picnic/open play spaces, and in areas of high public use.
- Use drought tolerant plant material in landscaped

areas.

- Use sensitivity in providing lighting systems for outdoor recreational facilities to ensure participant safety and minimize trespass light into adjacent neighborhoods and streets while maintaining the “dark skies”.



Maintain regional trail and open space linkages from the Tonto National Forest, the McDowell Mountains and the City of Phoenix.



Promote trailheads and equestrian oriented parks that have direct access to a regional trail system.

Goal 3: Identify and celebrate the Rural Desert character experienced in the Desert Foothills study area that will result in or maintain a unique desert community distinguished from other parts of Scottsdale and the metropolitan area.

Strategies:

1. Use physical elements within the improvement/expansion of local infrastructure to create thematic elements.
 - Colors, textures and materials used on infrastructure improvements should blend into the natural desert environment and reflect the rustic rural identity of the area.
 - The design of street signage, signalized intersections and street lights should be used to reflect the rustic, rural identity of the area.
 - Public facilities should reflect the color and material palette used in the improved local infrastructure and adjacent structures.
2. Create gateways that reflect the area's identity and highly visible focal points within the study area.
 - City gateways should reflect the area's identity.



- Significant city entry points and/or mile streets should be used as opportunities to create gateways that identify this unique area of the city.

3. Scenic corridors should be designed to reflect an identity for the entire length of the corridor and respond to the unique character the road bisects.
 - Public improvements should consist of consistent colors and materials.
 - Identification signs should use a consistent palette throughout corridor.
 - Utility cabinets which cannot be buried should be painted a consistent color with other street signs and signal poles along the corridor which use colors that blend with natural desert tones.

4. The design of all nonresidential structures should respect the existing rustic, rural character and scale of buildings across the area.

Public infrastructure can be used to celebrate and reflect the unique identity of an area. These elements should blend into natural desert and respond to the rustic rural character of the area.